



Issue # 176

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## **“In a hole in the ground, there lived a hobbit...”**

Yet another low-cost, energy-efficient house - a little more expensive than the ones we’ve seen in recent weeks, but with [a lot more character](#).

## **It’s been done before**

A new [discussion of urban agriculture](#) reminds us that it’s been a city design feature for many years - and raises some questions about our current motivation.

## **Results of the 2011 “Solar Decathlon”**

That was the US Department of Energy’s [biennial home-design contest](#), with entries set up in a park near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC - the University of Maryland won, [UT Knoxville’s “Living Light” house](#) finished eighth.

Questions, comments, or link suggestions: [craig.owensby@nashville.gov](mailto:craig.owensby@nashville.gov)

The Metro Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department publishes this weekly digest to inform members of the Planning Commission, Metro Council, Board of Zoning Appeals, and other interested parties about planning and growth issues, local and in other communities, which could apply to our city and region, with particular emphasis on appropriate development, smart growth, multimodal transportation, and other information which will help us build a sustainable future and a more livable city.